

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/EP2004/004197

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C04B41/89

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C04B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, COMPENDEX, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 100 18 458 A (ERLUS BAUSTOFFWERKE) 18 October 2001 (2001-10-18) claims column 1, line 56 - line 58 column 2, line 14 - line 19	12,13, 16-21
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1999, no. 11, 30 September 1999 (1999-09-30) & JP 11 157966 A (TOTO LTD), 15 June 1999 (1999-06-15) abstract	12,13, 16-21
X	US 6 103 363 A (BOIRE PHILIPPE ET AL) 15 August 2000 (2000-08-15) claim 1 column 6, line 24 - line 26	12,13, 16-21
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

* & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 July 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

27/07/2004

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
E	WO 2004/043863 A (MILLENNIUM INORGANIC CHEM) 27 May 2004 (2004-05-27) page 11, line 1 - line 4 -----	12, 13, 16-21

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 1-11, 14, 15
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 1-11,14,15

Claim 1 defines seven process steps, which are executed in combination with the production steps of traditional ceramics. From the formulation of these steps it is apparent that it is impossible to execute all of these steps together within one single process, especially as it is unclear what the difference between the expressions "covering glaze", "silk screening pastes", "engobe" and "the layer covering" is. It is impossible to judge from independent claim 1 and also from the dependent claims 2-11 and from the description, which technical features are essential for the definition of the production process of the invention. Furthermore the process feature that "the insufflation is designed to produce and improvement in the photocatalytic effect" is unclear, because it tries to define the invention by the result to be achieved, but it is not indicated how this result is achieved by adjusting specific parameters of the process.

Claim 14 and claim 15, which is dependent from claim 14, are also so unclear that a search for the subject-matter of this claim is impossible, because it is not indicated how the firing process is modified and which characteristics of the end product result from this modification.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

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